

LIST OF ACTS

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At a simultaneous attack on the Russian lines. The result of the movement was not known at the departure of the Asia. The quotations of Exchange, however, in Vienna, on Thursday, the 1st inst., which were received at Liverpool by telegraph, denoted the prevalence of renewed distrust, such as had been exhibited on occasions when news unfavorable to the Russians had transpired.

OSMAN PACHA had intercepted letters from Prince MAMONKOFF to Prince GONCHARENKO, advising him to keep quiet in the Principality. Fifty pieces of artillery had been sent to Adrianople, and the Palace there was preparing for the reception of the Sultan. The London weekly press says that it has the best authority for saying that the Emperor of Russia had addressed a brief but conclusive note to France and England, announcing that no further negotiations regarding Eastern affairs could be listened to, and that Russia had chosen to settle the question by war.

In consequence of the continued heavy rains along the whole extent of the Lower Danube, which made extended military operations impossible, both the Russian and Turkish Commanders were getting their troops under cover, and OMER PACHA had marched the bulk of his troops back to the quarters occupied by them previous to their crossing the Danube. The Turks, however, had formed an entrenched camp between Kalafat and Krajova.

The London Times, referring to the report that the Turks had advanced from Calafat—the key to Upper Wallachia, which is the only mountainous part of the Principality—to Krajova, the capital of Little Wallachia, and thence actively along the Danube, says that the campaign in Wallachia had only just commenced; which seems very probable, as it is reported that the fourth and fifth Russian reserve corps are removing from Bessarabia into Wallachia.—Charles Courier.

PALMETTO STANDARD.

EDITORS:
SAML. W. MELTON... C. DAVIS MELTON.

CHESTER, S. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1853.

The letters of the Senior Editor have so entirely filled up our columns that we are unable to find room for the usual display of our own genius. The world is all astir just at present, and we hope hereafter to be able to give to our readers a more intimate acquaintance with the events of its progress.

The Yorkville Female College.

By the request and at the expense of a friend, we publish this week the Circular of the Board of Trustees of this Institution. The Rev. Mr. ANDERSON is a graduate of our college, a learned and accomplished gentleman, and we are sure that no one can be better qualified in every respect than he to discharge the duties of his position. We are glad to recommend this school in the highest terms, and trust that parents and guardians will consider well the claims it presents to their patronage.

Ordinary's Election.

It will be seen from the following return of the votes taken at the various election precincts, on last Monday, that Col. JAMES McDANIEL has been elected Ordinary of Chester District, for the next four years:

PRECINCTS.			
	J. McDANIEL.	J. T. WALKER.	E. CONNELLEY.
Chester Court House.....	97	203	53
Calhoun's.....	51	4	6
Fishing Creek.....	10	16	2
Rich Hill.....	75	16	3
Boyd's.....	2	3	8
Lowry's.....	2	3	8
Buton Ridge.....	0	10	28
Wylie's.....	0	20	4
McKoon's.....	20	1	2
Rossville.....	17	22	10
DeBarboursville.....	71	3	1
Robinson's.....	13	5	1
Gaston & McCreary's.....	21	6	2
Republican.....	27	15	4
Cherry's Store.....	19	25	7
McLilly's Mill.....	47	2	8
Tobacco.....	5	2	0
McCreight's.....	2	32	0
Minter's.....	4	16	23
Sanders.....	3	2	0
	488	420	189

Congress.

Both Houses of Congress have completed their organization, and have entered upon the labors of the session with more than the usual degree of zeal. BEVERLY TUCKER, the proprietor of the Sentinel, has been chosen printer to the Senate, an event which is regarded as ominous of a determined and formidable opposition to the measures of the present administration. Mr. OAR has been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs. Mr. AIKEN, a member of the Committee on Commerce; Mr. BROOKS, on Public Expenditures; Mr. KEITT, on Public Territories and Grounds; Mr. MCQUEEN, on Territories; and our immediate Representative Mr. BOYCE, on Claims. Mr. BOYCE offered the following resolution in relation to the reduction of duties on imports, which was postponed for future consideration:

Resolved, That in view of the large and increasing surplus now in the Treasury, and the duties on imports should be so reduced as only to raise such a revenue as may be necessary for an economical administration of the government, and the duties should be so imposed as to equalize as much as possible the burdens of taxation to all classes and sections, and to insure the abstraction from the pockets of the people of as little as possible over and above what is paid into the Treasury.

Editorial Correspondence.

HOCHE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 14.

We have considered to-day the subject of the construction of the new State House. Some two or three years ago, a small appropriation was obtained for the ostensible purpose of constructing a fire-proof building for the preservation of the public records of the State. The propriety of this step was questioned by no one, for it was evident that the present building was wholly insecure, and indeed several fires had occurred in the building which had

threatened the destruction of the public records. The Committee entrusted with the superintendence of the building, so arranged the plan as to make it the basis of a new Capitol. Their purpose was not avowed; and until last winter, when an additional appropriation was called for, no intimation was given that any other purpose was contemplated than the construction simply of a fire-proof building. This winter the purpose was openly avowed; the "New State House" being referred to in the Governor's Message, and the project being recognized by every one who spoke of it. To-day, it was proposed to make an appropriation for the progress of the work. It met with very little opposition, the fact staring every one in the face, that the work was too far advanced to permit us now to recede. It was accordingly determined to authorize the issuing of bonds, payable 20 years hence, for the sum of \$250,000. The Capitol will be one of much grandeur and beauty, and I think it much needed; but I should prefer to have it constructed upon a more economical scale. The only point which elicited discussion was whether we should raise the necessary sum by taxation, or whether we should raise it by issuing bonds to be paid by those who may come after us. It was argued by many that the House would remain for the use and benefit of posterity, and it was no injustice that they should contribute to the paying for it. My own opinion was that we should bear a portion of the burden, at least, and not saddle the entire debt on our posterity.

The bill, reported by a Joint Special Committee of the House and Senate, providing for the "more prompt and perfect administration of justice," which was ordered for consideration to-day, elicited a very warm and spirited discussion. The advocates of the bill urged, with much force, the importance of having an independent Court of Appeals: that it would give more character and consistency to their decisions, and by affording them ample leisure to mature their opinions, would tend to render their decrees more authoritative; that it was an objection to the present system, that the Judge who decides on the circuit, becomes an advocate for his own opinion in the Appeal Court; and that the double duty of Circuit and Appeal Courts prevented the necessary leisure for maturely considering questions submitted to them. On the other hand it was replied that the effect of this new system would be to create an order of inferior Judges, and that it was not good policy to place Judges of inferior ability on Circuit duty; that it would tend to multiply appeals; that our present system was working well; that our decisions were now of as high authority as those of the old Constitutional Court; that the Judges themselves were not complaining of over-work. Many other arguments pro and con were urged; but the discussion ultimately resolved itself into personal attacks directed against particular Judges, and into a general sharp-shooting between members, somewhat sore to many of the combatants but amusing to the listeners. The bill was ultimately put to vote and was lost, the vote standing 70 to 31.

TUESDAY, Dec. 15.

We are now de-patching business with some rapidity. We occasionally, in the progress of the calendar, stumble on a measure which elicits discussion, but generally speaking there is little disposition among members to engross, in this manner, the attention of the House.

We passed to-day, and sent to the Senate, a bill amending the License Laws of this State. It in effect abolishes the distinction between retail and quart licenses, giving to all the privilege of selling by the drink, whether they keep a public house or not. The measure was carried by a considerable majority. We, of the Chester Delegation, voted against it, doubting the propriety of any further tampering with the License question.

We also carried to-day a bill prescribing the terms upon which town and city councils may subscribe to Rail Road and Plank Road enterprises. It provides that no such subscription shall be made unless the Council shall first pass a resolution to that effect; secondly, publish the resolution in the town or city papers for one month; thirdly, call a town meeting after the month has expired, to consider the subject; and lastly, submit the question to a direct vote, by ballot, of all the taxable citizens. The bill was suggested by the recent subscription of a Million of Dollars, made by the city of Charleston to the Blue Ridge Road, which was made without ascertaining the wishes of the inhabitants of the city. The measure met a very determined opposition from Messrs. B. F. PERRY, MIDDLETON, SULLIVAN, and CROSBY—all of them strangely misapprehending its purpose and misjudging its effects. They argued as though the bill proposed to confer on town councils the power of taxing citizens to meet Rail Road and Plank Road subscriptions, when as already stated, its only purpose was to declare that the money they may raise by powers they now have, shall not be applied to such subscriptions without first ascertaining the wishes of the majority of the taxable citizens. I find that men of ability can occasionally, as well as the more common sort, get their heads so fogged and confused by very simple questions. I spoke in favor of the bill, and argued that, so far from conferring on corporations the power of taxing citizens to meet Rail Road and Plank Road subscriptions, it in effect took that power from them—a power which they have heretofore exercised—and placed it in a majority of the taxable citizens, where it ought to be. The bill was ultimately carried by a majority of some 12 or 15 votes. I think it an important measure in this fast age. Towns and cities are so generally inviting one another to the advantages of intercommunication, and the temptations of local interests are so strong, that we need some restraints to prevent the abuse of the powers already conferred on these corporations, and some security that they will respect the rights and interests of the corporations.

The only other matter which drew forth any discussion to-day, was the Report of the Committee on Colored Population, on the Petition of one Wm. JACKSON, a free negro of Spartanburg, praying that his children whom he had purchased might be declared to be free at his death. The Committee had reported that it was against the policy of the State, hitherto steadfastly pursued, to increase the number of free negroes by legalizing any direct or indirect acts of manumission. Mr. ELLISON, of Spartanburg, who had presented the petition,

urged with much earnestness the propriety of granting the prayer, stating that the Petitioner was a worthy and industrious man, had ever conducted himself in an orderly manner, was much esteemed by all who knew him, and that in the section where he lived there was a general anxiety that his prayer should be granted. He urged that no injury could result to the State in permitting his children, whom he had purchased, to follow his status, instead of that of their mother, who is a slave; that it would be offering to those of our free negroes, who are similarly situated, a powerful inducement stimulating them to industry, economy, and correctness of conduct, if they could know that by such means they could secure to their children the benefits of the freedom they enjoy.—Mr. TUCKER also argued in favor of the Petition, stating the additional fact that the children were very nearly white, being several removes from the negro. On the other hand, Mr. WINSMITH, of Spartanburg, opposed the petition, stating that he knew of no public expression or general wish of his constituents that the wish of the Petitioner should be granted.—The vote was very nearly unanimous against the Petitioner. The debate was important as evidencing the settled determination of the State, not to depart from her policy as to conferring the privileges of freedom upon those born to slavery, however meritorious the application. Only in one class of cases do they depart from it—where the slave has rendered service to the State, or in saving the life of his master at the risk of his own. In a case of the latter kind I think a master has been permitted to free his servant.

FRIDAY, Dec. 16.

A discussion, interesting at least to lawyers, came up to-day on a bill reported by the Judiciary Committee, to render incompetent to prove a will any subscribing witness to the same to whom any bequest or legacy is given in the will. Legislation on the subject is rendered necessary, because of the conflict of judicial decisions and the doubts entertained by many as to whether certain English statutes pertaining to the subject are of force in this State. The Committee proposed to declare incompetent every attesting witness who has an interest in the will, the advocates of the measure arguing that as the witnesses to a will are placed around a testator as the guardians of his purpose, the law should render every one utterly incompetent who has at the time any interest in the will which could bias or influence his conduct. A different measure was proposed by Mr. HATSON, in effect that a will so attested should be void, but that the interest of the witness should be void and he be allowed to testify. In advocacy of this measure it was argued, that the right of executing a will was too important in its character and results to allow the purpose of a testator to be defeated by the mere accident of calling in a witness to whom some small bequest may happen to be given; and that the witnesses may have, because in nearly every instance witnesses have no knowledge of the contents of the will which they are called to attest; and that they would besides know that the moment they offer their names to the instrument, they are, under the law proposed, defeated of their interest. In no view, therefore, can they be supposed to have such an interest as would bias or influence their conduct. This measure seemed to me the better rule in every respect, and I accordingly voted in its favor. It carried in the House, and I am disposed to think will also pass the Senate.

The Bank of Charleston has been re-chartered with its original capital. There existed very strong objections to this, and a protest very prominently signed and by many of the most prominent citizens of Charleston was presented against it. The influence of a Bank of such overwhelming power cannot act otherwise than injuriously on the interests of the smaller Banks; and the effect and extent of that influence is in nothing more fully illustrated than in the large majority by which the bill for the re-charter was carried. The whole stood 73 to 27, more than three to one.

The voluminous bill respecting Wills, introduced by Mr. MCGOWAN, has been ordered to lie on the table. Its provisions are too many and too important to be considered during one brief session, and it is left for members to take it to their homes and consider its merits. Those who may chance to return, can not upon it. I am pleased with many of the provisions, and think that the bill, upon the whole, would contribute much to render certain and simple many rules touching the execution and construction of testamentary papers.

Mr. OWEN, of Barnwell, pressed with much earnestness a bill introduced by him to regulate the measuring of lumber in the city of Charleston. The Lumber trade has assumed a very important character both in Charleston and Savannah, and the purpose of the bill was to produce uniformity in the method of measurement practised in the two cities. He stated that the Charleston mode defrauded the lumbermen out of from 30 to 40 per cent. of the value of their refuse; and that so grievously was this felt that lands on the Edisto, from which lumber was necessarily floated to Charleston were from 30 to 40 per cent. less valuable than lands on the Savannah whence they floated to the city of Savannah. The bill met very determined opposition from the Charleston delegation, and was carried only by a close vote. It was a matter upon which correct information was very much wanted. Our action had to be governed by the mere statements of members, none of whom were familiar with the subject.

Our session to-night has been protracted to a very late hour. It is now near 12 o'clock, and the anxiety of members to make progress in business, promises no very speedy adjournment. The Speaker has just announced that unless certain bills are read the first time to-night, it will be impossible that they can pass this session. This has given rise to a general anxiety on the part of members to press forward such of their measures, and there is continually recurring, as each bill is disposed of, a sort of begging and entreating on the part of members to be allowed to take up some bill out of its order. Having myself a bill under my special charge, I can not calmly upon the scene and enjoy the features that are presented. Speeches are listened to impatiently, and yet when a member opens the floor, he sits down reluctantly, fearing he has not said enough to satisfy the House that his bill

ought certainly to pass. A very large number of members have gone to their rooms, leaving the State with all her multiplied and complex interests to take care of herself. It is a time, however, when it is particularly important that members should be at their post; for it is at such times when the House is thin and business hurried over, that members succeed in pressing forward objectionable measures. Oftentimes an amendment is slipped in, or an independent measure tacked to a bill that is passing, which could not pass on its merits as a distinct measure.

We have considered the Tax Bill, the Appropriation Bill, the general Incorporation Bills, and many other bills that claim priority in the attention of all; and now, wanting a few minutes to 1 o'clock in the morning, we conclude to adjourn.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17.

A bill came to us to-day from the Senate, to authorize a subscription of \$750,000 on the part of the State, to the Rabun Gap Railroad. It passed the Senate by a majority of one vote. It is said it would have failed by two or three votes, if all the Senators had been present. The vote was taken at a late hour of the night, and many Senators had retired. The friends of this Road would seem to be fortunate in taking votes at late hours. It will be regretted that the bill of last session, authorizing the State to guarantee the bonds of this company to a large amount, was passed in the House at a very late hour and by a thin house. The discussion on the subject in the House, to-day, was not protracted. The bill was lost by a vote of 61 to 48. There exists a very general impression that the show of subscriptions and of progress in the work, which the company has made, is not seeming that real; and that there is an attempt to delude the Legislature into a heavy subscription upon the exhibition of fictitious subscriptions on the part of individuals. Whether this be so or not, the impression has had its influence; and to that more than to any other cause is their defeat to be attributed.

A bill from the Senate has just passed the House, making null and void all contracts entered into between students under age and shop-keepers. It has always been a matter of complaint with parents and guardians that young men sent to college were allowed unloading credit by merchants in Columbia, and induced to contract heavy debts during their college course. The bill is intended to remedy this evil by rendering null and void all such debts, whether contracted after becoming of age or not; and also to make it unlawful to issue any process of Court predicated on such a debt, or to enter judgment thereon by confession or otherwise. I voted for it, although opposed by very much stronger bills, and for very good reasons. Merchants rely in the contracting of their accounts by students, not upon the powers the law may give for their collection, but upon the "honor" of the young men; and they have practiced the plan of trusting them long enough to know that their reliance is not often misplaced; and I apprehend their percentage is always put high enough to cover occasional losses.

We have also passed a bill, originating in the House and returned in the Senate, to declare and amend the law in relation to words of limitation in deeds and wills. It declares that whatever may be the phraseology used, it shall not be construed as intended to create any greater limitation than is allowed by law. It relieves such instruments of all the technicalities, and remits them solely to the construction of common sense. This bill, I think, relieves us of a fruitful source of litigation; and will be not in the least advantageous to the interests of lawyers.

In the night session, we have had a protracted discussion on a bill from the Senate to modify our existing law relative to the imprisonment of colored seamen who come into the ports of our State. It is generally known that the British Government has for a long time remonstrated against these laws, and during the past year undertook to institute legal proceedings in the U. S. Court, to test the validity of our laws. These proceedings they ultimately abandoned, thus conceding their validity. In view of this a modification of the law is proposed, dispensing with the imprisonment, and requiring that the Masters of vessels should give bond that their colored seamen would not come ashore, but remain on board. The repeal of the law I met a very strenuous opposition. It was argued that no feeling of courtesy should induce us to depart from a policy so essentially to our well-being as that which originally prompted the law. Various amendments were proposed and voted down, but it was finally moved, and carried that the bill should not take effect until the Government of Great Britain shall give us the assurance that all slaves of citizens of this State, who may be cast by stress of weather or calamity at sea upon any of the West India Islands, shall be restored to their owners on demand. This was intended to meet such cases as that of the Creole, which occurred many years ago, (and if I mistake not others have occurred more recently) when the vessel being cast on a British Island the slaves who were in service on the vessel were set free and their retention refused. There was an obvious propriety in the amendment, but its passage rendered the whole bill unacceptable to its friends, and an indefinite postponement was submitted, and was carried only by a close vote. It was a matter upon which correct information was very much wanted. Our action had to be governed by the mere statements of members, none of whom were familiar with the subject.

There has been to-night a continuous scramble for the floor. By consent, or by a combination of the members interested on the many Railroad projects, the bills for new charters were taken up and have pretty much engrossed the time of the House. The scene which has arisen beggars all description. The changes now are so rapid that it may be made to protrude the session into the hours of Sunday. Now at about half-past eleven o'clock, the last of the Railroad bills, being the Newberry and Chester road, is taken up, and being very long and of such a nature that it will entertain us until 12. It is a wonder that more mischief does not result from such hasty legislation as occurs at such times as this. Members are forced to pass over many objectionable features in bills, because they have not time to oppose them, fearing that the time thus lost may cause the defeat of some measure which they have at heart.

Instances of this I have observed to-night.

The Columbia and Hamburg Charter has been passed—an enterprise which I consider of the highest importance to the Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad Company. The House now adjourns at 12 o'clock, the Bill for the Charter of the Newberry and Chester road having just saved its distance. Notice has been given by the Rabun Gap party that a motion will be made on Monday to reconsider the vote on their measure. I think it will be of no avail.

MONDAY, Dec. 19.

The only matter of special interest which we have considered to-day, were certain resolutions, offered, by Col. HAMPTON, providing for the removal of the Lunatic Asylum from the town of Columbia to some point in the country. The Committee to whom the matter was referred had not reported against the removal, but had contented themselves with simply recommending an inquiry as to the propriety of the removal, and as to the cost which would attend the construction of a new building. Col. Hampton made a very interesting and able argument in favor of the immediate removal. He has devoted great attention to the subject and is furnished with all the needed information and statistics. His resolutions, however, failed, although supported very ably by many other members. That the Asylum should be removed I have no doubt; and equally as confident am I that it will be removed. The treatment of the insane requires a different plan of buildings and other advantages than can be had in a town or city. Experience has demonstrated that it is only in the country, where the patients can be distant from all the excitements of a crowded and bustling city, that their diseases can be successfully treated. So well is this matter now understood, that no person at all informed on the subject, will place insane persons in an Asylum such as ours; and the Regents say it is fast becoming merely an Asylum for the pauper lunatics of the State—thus losing all the advantages of pay patients, and casting the whole burden of supporting the Asylum upon the State. The State has for many years recognized the duty of providing for the support of lunatics; and if we undertake the task it should be done properly. It is but holding out a false hope to the friends of this unfortunate class to invite their patronage to this institution, where so few of the necessary advantages are afforded, and so small a proportion of cures effected compared with the results elsewhere.

This day has been very much consumed in matter-of-course business. We have heard nothing further of the Rabun Gap measure in the House; but I am informed this evening that the idea of moving a reconsideration has been abandoned. This is a wise course; for the attempt, if unsuccessful, would arouse feelings of hostility to the enterprise which have not yet been felt.

The amendments to the Charter of the Town of Chester have been passed in a general bill providing for the amendment of sundry other Charters. These amendments are the power of taxing 10 cents per centum on the value of real and personal estate, of taxing taverns, public drays, livery-stable vehicles, horses kept for hire, and dogs; the power of commuting for patrol duty; of making arrests of disorderly persons; and of requiring lot-owners to make sidewalks wherever Council may think them necessary.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.

This is the last day of the Session, and it is devoted mainly to confirming Reports and ratifying what has already been acted on. There is but little interest manifested by members in the progress of business. All seem to be engaged in bundling up documents, preparatory to taking leave of the House.

There is no one who does not now regret the shortness of our Session. Business of an important character has been necessarily passed over; and indeed it may be said of all the important measures that we have been called to consider, that they have been lost for the want of time. The list of Acts passed will exhibit how little has been done in matters of general interest.

The Resolution to adjourn at 8 o'clock, has been rescinded, and the Houses will sit until 12. The House has pretty well dispatched its business, but the Senate has many matters yet to act upon.

At half-past 10 o'clock, the Speaker and Clerk of the House attended in the Senate Chamber to participate in the ceremony of ratifying the Acts. Whilst thus engaged, the members of the House are endeavoring to get up a Mock Session; but it is likely to be a failure. Witly members are not sufficiently numerous to give life to the scene, and the attempt drags heavily. Barney O'Neal, of Convention notoriety, has been making a fool of himself most admirably. He announces himself a candidate for Doorkeeper, for the next Legislature, but may as well save himself the trouble; for the present moment has given such entire satisfaction that he will doubtless be retained.

The Speaker has resumed his Chair, and as the hour of twelve has arrived, his hammer falls, and the session closes.

The Cotton Markets.

CHESTER, Dec. 21.

The sales of the past week comprise 300 bales, at prices ranging from 74 to 91 cents.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 20.

Our cotton market yesterday was quiet, but very steady at former quotations. 235 bales changed hands, at prices ranging from 74 to 91 cents.

SETTLE.

ALL persons indebted to DR. WYLIE and A. MOBLEY, or to Dr. WYLIE individually, are earnestly requested to come forward and settle by cash or note.

A. P. WYLIE.

Dec. 22.

DESIRABLE BUSINESS STAND.

THE Subscriber offers his stock of goods in Pickensville, to any person wishing to engage in mercantile pursuits, with a lease of his brick drop-house; and also to sell or lease a convenient Dwelling House, near the store, known as the Taylor House. This stand is a desirable location for business, and the accommodations for that purpose are ample for a family or a single man.

D. F. McMAHAN.

Dec. 22.

